

# Planning for California Community College Bound Students: Student Worksheet

## Goal

You will reflect on your career aspirations and explore California Community Colleges and Associate Degrees for Transfer in order to apply to the California Community College that best aligns with your goals.

## Part I: Bell Work

What are your career aspirations? How can attending a California Community College help you meet your goals? Respond below.

Do you intend to get a certificate, an associate degree, and/or transfer to a four-year institution in order to complete a bachelor's degree? Explain below.

Do you know which California Community College offers you the best option based on what you hope to study and the certificate or degree you are hoping to pursue? Check your response:  Yes  No

If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II: Associate Degree for Transfer

Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Type "ADT" in the search box on the top right side of the page and find the article titled **California Colleges Associate Degree for Transfer**. Read the article and complete the table below.

| Question                              | Your Response |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| What is ADT?                          |               |
| How can an ADT help you?              |               |
| What can you do now to pursue an ADT? |               |

### Part III: Finding the Right College

You likely have several options for a California Community College that can help you to reach your career goals. Find the college(s) with the best program for you.

1. Hover on **Career** and click on **Career Search Tool**. Using **Search by Keyword**, type the name of the career you are interested in pursuing and click **Search**.
2. Review the results list and favorite (♥) careers that interest you. Click on the name of one of those careers.
3. Navigate to the **Education** section of the factsheet. Write down the names of the **programs** and **majors** that stand out to you.
4. Highlight two programs/majors above that you think might be a good match. When you find one you think might be a match, click on **View Colleges** next to the name of the program/major. Be sure to (♥) the names of the colleges; write the names of colleges below:
5. Repeat steps #3-4 as needed to explore different programs and majors of interest.
6. You are now in the **College Search Tool**. Select "**California Only**" under the **Location** filter, then click on **California Community College** in the **California College Type** filter. Click **Search**. If your search does not yield any results, it is likely because the program/major is not offered at a California Community College. Conduct another search as needed.
7. The colleges listed have the program or major(s) that you have indicated you are interested in pursuing. Favorite (♥) colleges that are located in areas that make sense for you and write them below. For example, you can favorite colleges near your current home. If you have family you can live with near another college, you may choose to favorite that college, too. Conduct more thorough research on all the colleges that you favorite (♥) by clicking on the name of the college(s). Review the factsheets, visit the college's website, and consider emailing or calling the college to learn more. Finally, you will need to determine which college is the best fit for your needs, so that you can submit your application.

### Part IV: CCCApply

Now that you have favorited (♥) one or more California Community Colleges, it is time to submit your application! You will start your application(s) on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.

Follow these steps to start your application:

- Log in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
- Hover or click on **College**.
- Under the **Apply to College** section click on **California Community Colleges Application**.
- Type the name of the college or select it from the dropdown list.
- Click on the blue **Launch** button.

The date and time of the application submission will be recorded in the **College Applications** section of **My Plan**.

### Tips:

- Talk with your counselor, family, and mentors about your options. Consider not just your immediate plans after high school but also opportunities to build upon an initial certificate program or transfer to a four-year institution.
- Submit your CCCApply application(s) early so you can become eligible for priority registration.

## Part V: Paying for Community College

Each California Community College has a slightly different process for financial aid. Complete the FAFSA or the CADAA. Talk to your counselor about application deadlines for these programs.

### What if I have not submitted my FAFSA/CADAA?

Complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA**. Open the first lesson. It helps you:

- Launch your FAFSA/CADAA so you can keep track of your status. You'll be taken to the FAFSA or CADAA website to complete your application.
- Get guidance on how to complete your application.
- Get in contact with a financial aid expert.

The FAFSA and CADAA open the door to free money worth thousands of dollars — sometimes tens of thousands. Submit your FAFSA/CADAA by **March 2** because you don't want to miss out on the Cal Grant money! The Cal Grant is a state grant that helps cover your college tuition and fees.

### What if I already submitted my FAFSA/CADAA?

**Note:** Make sure you add your community colleges to your FAFSA/CADAA.

After submitting your FAFSA/CADAA, you'll get a report. From **My Plan**, select **Lessons** and then navigate to **Financial Aid** in order to complete **Module 3: Review Your FAFSA or CADAA and Cal Grant GPA**. This module shows you how to review your report and make corrections if something is missing.

Follow these steps to conduct research on important terms and processes for you to become familiar with to ensure you can pay for a California Community College. Record your notes in the chart below.

1. At the top of the page, hover over **Financial Aid** and look under **Your Financial Aid Eligibility for Financial Aid for Community College Students**. Read the entire page carefully.
2. Hover over **Financial Aid** and look under **Other Applications for Cal Grant**. Read the entire page carefully.
3. Hover over **Financial Aid** and look under **Other Applications for California College Promise Grant**. Read the entire page carefully.
4. Go to the top of the page and click on the search icon. Type "student success" in the search bar and select **California Colleges Student Success Completion Grant**. Read the entire page carefully.

| Term                                                                    | Notes and Next Steps |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG Fee Waiver) |                      |
| Cal Grant A                                                             |                      |
| Cal Grant B                                                             |                      |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Cal Grant C                      |  |
| CCCSE Osher Scholarship          |  |
| Student Success Completion Grant |  |
| Pell Grant                       |  |
| General Notes                    |  |

### Part VI: Priority Registration

California Community Colleges offer priority registration, which allows students to register for courses early so that they can get into those courses before they fill up. It is important for you to understand priority registration so you can take advantage of its benefits.

**Each college may have different requirements and processes related to priority registration. Therefore, after you conduct your general research, it is critical that you contact the college you plan to attend to learn about that college's specific requirements.**

1. Go to the top of the page and click on the search icon; type community college in the search box. Find the article called California Colleges Benefits of California Community Colleges.
2. Read the entire page carefully. Pay particular attention to **Priority Registration**, linked at the bottom of the page under "**After you apply.**" Take notes below.

3. Finally, complete the chart below based on what you have just learned about priority registration.

| Question                                                           | Your Response |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| What is priority registration?                                     |               |
| How can priority registration help you?                            |               |
| What steps must you take to be eligible for priority registration? |               |

### Part VII: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #12**:  
*“When you enroll at a California Community College, you will have a lot of choices; however, you will be required to have an educational plan completed and on file by the time you complete 15 units. Your plan will include foundational English and Mathematics courses and other courses of your choice. Does the college you are interested in have clear pathways or sets of courses that will help you to achieve your goal? If there isn’t a clear pathway, what counseling resources can you take advantage of at the college to help you define a plan?”*
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.